

Sixth Army Group, France—Warehouses so badly gutted by the retreating Germans that they had been declared impossible to repair are now still in use in Italy as a tribute to the skill and hard work of a company of Negro engineers now serving in France with the Continental Advance Section, supply organization of the Sixth Army Group and the Seventh Army.

When this group of engineers moved in to rehabilitate the warehouses, they applied "GI-enuity" to their work. The warehouses were quickly repaired and made usable and many of the supplies that backed the invasion of Southern France were stored in them before shipment.

The organization has been overseas two years and its members have earned three battle stars for participation in as many campaigns. But it is proudest of its achievement in Naples, when, after a German air raid, the men of the company worked 48 hours to rescue two soldiers and a civilian trapped under 24 tons of debris.

Among the soldiers in this company are Private Manuel Harrison Evans, son of Harrison Evans, and Corporal Nathan A. Walker, son of Mrs. Susie L. Walker, of Marlinton, West Virginia.

**BERGOO MILL TO CLOSE**

Webster Springs.—The Pardue & Curtain Lumber Company has announced the closing of their big band saw mill at Bergoo. The mill will be dismantled and sold through second hand dealers or as junk. The balance of the company's timber holdings, consisting largely of isolated tracts, will be manufactured on portable mills. At one time this company employed as high as 350 men. Of late months mill and woods forces consisted of about 150 men.

The Pardue and Curtain Lumber Company is one of the oldest lumber firms in West Virginia. Seventy-five years ago they began operation in Taylor County. Later they operated in Braxton and Nicholas Counties. The operation at Bergoo began nearly twenty years ago, the mill being moved from Curilla, in Nicholas. In the thirty years operation at Sutton, about a billion feet of lumber was manufactured. Much of this timber was floated down Elk River during high water stages.

VIRGINIA, February 22, 1945.

## DEATHS

## Samuel Richard Wallace

The subject of this sketch, Black Staff Wallace, as he was familiarly known by his friends and associates, was born on a farm in the 23 Valley of Virginia, near the town of Fairfield, Rockbridge County, Virginia, September 29, 1879, and passed away at his home in Marlinton, February 5, 1945. He was the son of the late John William Wallace and Virginia Tysinger Wallace.

His funeral was conducted at his residence in Marlinton on the afternoon of February 8, 1945, by the Reverend J. C. Wool, pastor of the Presbyterian Church. His interment was in his family plot in the Mountain View Cemetery. He was a member of the Lutheran Church. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Eleanor Benwick of New Market, Virginia, who died about ten years ago. On November 27, 1943, he was again united in marriage to Miss Eliza he Hill of Marlinton, who survives him. He is also survived by one brother, W. E. Wallace, of Akron, Ohio. Another brother, John L. Wallace, of Jacksonville, Florida, predeceased him in death about fifteen years ago.

He was educated in the schools of his native county and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He always seemed interested in drugs and medicine, for at an early age his first venture in business for himself after leaving his ancestral home was a traveling salesman in West Virginia, representing the well known drug firm of Lovell Brothers of Baltimore, Maryland. He continued in this for about four years. In June 1903 he came to his adopted town of Marlinton and with Dr. T. C. Curry and S. B. Carter as his partners purchased the old and well established retail drug store of Harry R. Eholz. The business was conducted in the partnership name of the Marlinton Drug Store. The business was successful, from the beginning and in the course of time he purchased the interest of his associates and conducted the store alone until 1912. After the sale of the small business was completed he opened a drug store and called it the Drug Stores and organized the wholesale business of selling drugs and accessories and incorporated it under the name of S. B. Wallace & Company. By his undiring energy, industry and with his other officers and working force, he has built up a wholesale business which would be a credit to a much more populous and important city.

From the time S. B. Wallace located in Marlinton, he adapted himself to the manners, customs and people of the County and was one of them. He endeavored to do everything to make his county a better and happier place to live. He was interested in the industries inside his county, the improvement of roads and transportation facilities and betterment of rural farm conditions. He was always interested in the young people of the town and county and soon after he established himself he organized a baseball team and through his example, training and clean living, developed a very successful team. Many of the young men who played on the teams have become leading citizens in their different fields of occupation.

He will probably be remembered best for connection with the Pocahontas County Fair which was organized in 1919, when he became the first and only President and general manager and for 25 years had been the life and inspirational force that kept it going. In the conception of Mr. Wallace and which he endeavored to impress on the directors that it should be a county fair for the county people. Different from typical county or State fairs, a exhibition of objects of art, products of the farm and garden, live stock and poultry, thus fostering a friendly competition among local people for the improvement of the livestock industry, agriculture and the arts.

He was enthusiastic, and could inspire confidence in others, in anything which he would undertake, and did with all his zeal and might, whatever his mind and hand found to do, until it was finally accomplished. He was a very lovable man and loved his home, his friends, his business, and will be greatly missed by a large number of friends in this and adjoining counties.

Thus is noted the passing, in the prime of manhood one of the leading and prominent citizens of Pocahontas County.

T. S. M.

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